

A NEW MEXICAN MALAXIS

Louis O. Williams

Malaxis pollardii L. Wms. sp. nov.

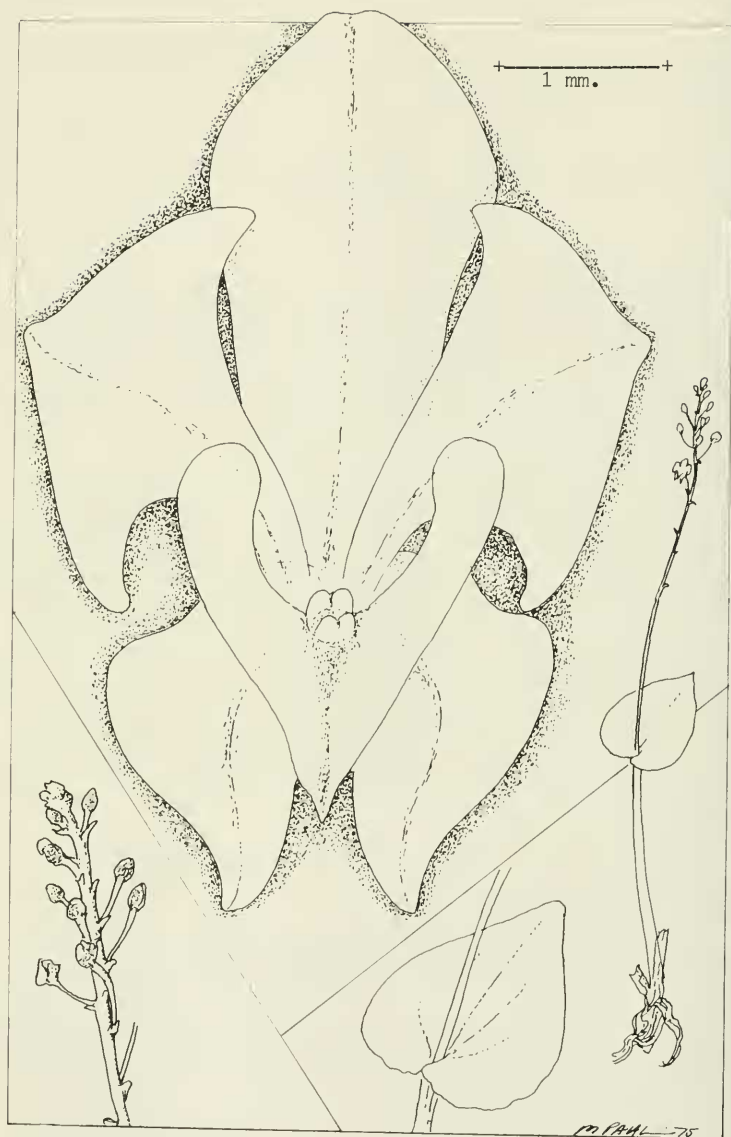
Herbae perparvae terrestres unifoliatæ usque ad 11 cm. altæ. Folia late ovato-cordata acuta; inflorescentiæ racemosæ longe pedunculatæ; flores parvi virides; sepalum dorsale elliptico-ovatum acutum uninervium; sepala lateralia asymmetrica late ovata obtusa; petala dolabriformia subtrilobata uninervia; labellum trilobatum, lobus terminalis anguste triangularis, lobi laterales oblongo-lineares obtusi; columna generis.

Very small terrestrial herbs to about 11 cm. tall; stems about 4-5 cm. long with a single sessile, deeply cordate leaf; leaf broadly ovate-cordate, acute, 20-27 mm. long and 16-22 mm. broad; inflorescence a long pedunculate, several-flowered simple raceme to about 7 cm. long; flowers small, greenish, each flower subtended by a cucullate, ovate bract about 1 mm. long, pedicels slender, about 5 mm. long; dorsal sepal elliptic-ovate, acute, 1-nerved, about 3.5 mm. long and 1.5 mm. broad; lateral sepals asymmetric and broadly ovate, obtuse, about 2 mm. long and 1.5 mm. broad; petals dolabriform, subtrilobate, uninerved, about 2.5 mm. long and as broad across the lateral dolabriform lobes; lip trilobate, about 1.5 mm. long and 2.5 mm. across the extended lateral lobes, the apical lobe narrowly triangular, the narrowly oblong-linear basal lobes erect, obtuse, about 1 mm. long; column minute.

Mexico: Ofelio, Cerro San Felipe, Oaxaca, August 22, 1970, Glenn E. Pollard M-112 (type, F).

One of the smallest of the Mexican species of Malaxis and somewhat related to Malaxis majanthemifolia Schlecht. & Cham. It is easily distinguished from all of the species that I know by the dolabriform petals which remind one of the petals in some species of Lepanthes. The curious petals, along with the single, cordiform leaf, the racemose inflorescence and the erect lateral lobes of the lip will help to distinguish it. The collector, for whom the species is named, is one of the most active students of the Mexican orchid flora.

The illustration was drawn from the type and from photographs provided by the collector. Miss Marion Pahl is the artist.



Malaxis pollardii; a flower from photograph much enlarged; a plant slightly reduced; a leaf slightly enlarged; an inflorescence about X2.